



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CMC-POS

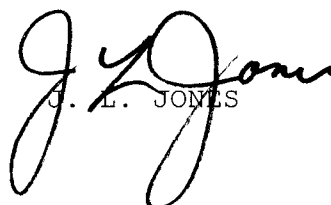
11 Apr 00

WHITE LETTER NO.03 -00

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: ALCOHOL, DRIVING, AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. The practice of Marines gathering together in fellowship is a time honored tradition enjoyed by Marines everywhere. We socialize together to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday, welcome and bid farewell to Marines and their families, conduct professional discourse in a social atmosphere, or just enjoy each other as friends and comrades-in-arms.
2. Refreshments are often available at these social settings and may include alcoholic and nonalcoholic, or only nonalcoholic beverages. The decision to offer alcoholic beverages at social functions varies. The age of the individuals, the time of day, the possibility of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, or a fear that those being served cannot or will not accept responsibility for their actions may all contribute to the decision.
3. Our current policies regarding alcohol abuse and driving while under the influence of alcohol remain in force and will not be changed. However, enforcement of these policies does not mean alcohol prohibition.
4. We must create an atmosphere where positive leadership and education efforts focus on individual and group responsibility coupled with alternatives to getting behind the wheel after consuming alcoholic beverages. We will not glamorize the use of alcohol, nor will we create an atmosphere in which drinking is considered a stigma.
5. Commanders should pursue innovative and legally unobjectionable options that create a positive social environment, and provide Marines alternatives to driving under the influence of alcohol. Caution must be exercised that such measures do not undermine existing mandatory procedures.


J. L. JONES